

From the present terminus of the road, near Asheville, two routes have been surveyed, the Tennessee line, and both found to be entirely practicable at comparatively a moderate cost. The one lies in almost a due west course through the counties of Haywood, Macon, Jackson and Cherokee, terminating at Cowart (Duck Town,) and the other in a northerly



rection, along the French Broad River and terminating at the Paint Rock, 45 miles below Asheville. At both of those points of termination, connections can be had with the Tennessee roads.

The selection of either one of these routes, to the exclusion of the other, would fail to accommodate a large number of our fellow citizens residing beyond the Blue Ridge, who have heretofore cheerfully contributed their ratable part towards appropriations for the construction of roads east of the mountains, with no other advantage to themselves than the mere hope held out of their extension among them at a future day. To disappoint this reasonable expectation, now that millions have been expended to overcome the great mountain barrier, would prove a sore disappointment to them, and would, in my opinion, be a departure from a true economical policy. These routes point in different directions, and consequently, each would secure a business that the other could not, and both would serve as valuable contributors to the main line of road east of Asheville.

I would, therefore, earnestly recommend that the Western North Carolina Railroad Company be allowed to construct their road over both the routes above designated, and that the State contribute in the same proportion as heretofore.

As every delay in forming these connections will result in injury to investments already made, I would suggest no other restriction upon the progress of the work than a simple limitation as to the amount of money to be paid annually by the State; such a limitation being, in my opinion, necessary to a safe administration of the public finances.

The Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad is an unusually well constructed work and in successful operation. As was the case with others of our roads, for the first few years after completion, it has, as yet, yielded no dividends to the stockholders; but the present earnings of the road, as reported to me, give satisfactory assurances that it will at an early day be classed among our dividend paying roads.

This Company will, as I am informed, ask that the State loan of \$100,000 with the back interest, amounting to \$72,000, be converted into preferred stock and the road released from the mortgage upon it in favor of the State. The acceding to such a proposal would tend to facilitate the operations of the Company and could not result in any injury to the State, as no reasonable doubt can exist that the Company would be able to pay 6 per cent. annually on such preferred stock, after the present year. A similar policy was pursued towards the North Carolina Railroad Company with marked beneficial consequences.

The report of the commissioner to examine into the affairs of this company has been handed in within the past few days, and is herewith transmitted.

The Wilmington and Manchester road, in which the State has a small interest, has as yet yielded no dividends, in consequence, as is believed, of pecuniary embarrassments incurred in its construction.

The condition of the other companies, in which the State is a stockholder, will more satisfactorily appear from the following exhibit of dividends paid by them in the last and present years:

By N. C. R. R. Co., 6 p. ct. on preferred stock.....	\$120,000
By 2 and 3 p. ct. on common stock.....	150,000
	\$270,000
By W. & W. R. R. Co., 8 p. cent.....	\$212,002
By R. & G. R. R. Co., 1 and 6 p. cent.....	97,820 3/4, 962

Total dividends paid in 1859-60, \$579,962. The fact of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Company paying but four per cent. dividend in 1859, is to be accounted for by a change of their financial year, which embraces but eight months of that period.

In support of the policy here recommended as the proper one to be pursued towards our works of internal improvement, no more weighty argument could be offered than the general benefits resulting from such as have already been completed. These are everywhere to be witnessed, and especially in the increased value of real estate. The assessed value of real estate in North Carolina, at the several periods named below, is as follows:

In 1815, \$54,521,512—in 1836, \$51,011,317—in 1850, \$55,600,000—in 1855, \$58,075,969—in 1860, \$126,000,000.

It thus appears that from 1815 to 1856, a period of twenty years, the value of our real estate actually decreased, while there was only an increase of \$2,100,000 from 1815 to 1850, a period of thirty-five years. From 1850 to 1860, ten years, the increase has been \$70,400,000. Now, it will be recollected that most of our works of internal improvement have been constructed since the year 1850.

In that year we had but 250 miles of railroad, and that of a very imperfect character, while in the present year we have 814 miles of road in actual operation.

The increased value of real estate since 1853, will alone yield a revenue, at the present rate of taxation, of \$140,100.

Results like these will remove all doubt that the State has pursued a wise policy, since 1850, towards works of this character.

#### AGRICULTURE.

An increase in the value of real estate is usually accompanied by improvements in agriculture and an increase in the returns of agricultural labor. Among the most interesting evidences of the advance made in this branch of our industry, and of the spirit mani-

fest in the cultivation of the soil, are the agricultural fairs now annually held in many parts of the State. These assemblies of the people greatly tend to the dissemination of intelligence and practical information upon the subject of farming, and it is well worthy of your consideration whether they be not deserving the patronage of the State.

Further to give direction to individual enterprise, I would respectfully recommend the establishment of a Board of Agriculture, with the power to divide the State into agricultural districts, and to make suitable provisions for the giving of instruction in this branch of science. The creation of such a Board would be attended with a trifling expense, and the appropriation of a small amount towards the salary of a teacher in each district, in aid of individual and county contributions, it is confidently believed, would be a wise expenditure of the public money.

#### EDUCATION.

Since the last Session of the Legislature, our system of public education, under the supervision of the able and zealous Superintendent of Common Schools, has been still further improved in its practical operation, and attended, perhaps, with greater usefulness than at any former period. Under the system the means of education, in the primary branches, are placed within the reach of every child of the State.

There was distributed to the several counties, for school purposes, by the Commissioners of the Literary Fund, in 1859, \$18,150.08, and a like amount the present year.

By virtue of a provision contained in the charter of the Bank of North Carolina, the Public Treasurer subscribed for the Literary Fund the capital stock of that Bank, an amount equal to the stock belonging to the Fund in the Bank of the State of North Carolina, the charter of which expired on 1st January last. In order to make payment of the first and second instalments of the newly subscribed stock, that officer visited the city of New York and negotiated a temporary loan, in specie, upon highly favorable terms, and such as could not have been procured otherwise than by his presence there. This loan has been since paid off by payments made upon the stock in the Bank of the State of North Carolina.

A report from the Commissioners of the Literary Fund will be laid before you.

Our Common School System was established in the year 1840, before which time there was no instruction imparted in the State at the public expense. After an experience of twenty years it will not prove uninteresting to observe the extent of the influence of this system upon the general interests of education. And while it will not be pretended that the progress made within that period is wholly attributable to our Common Schools; yet, it must be confessed that they have been mainly instrumental in awakening among our people a lively spirit on the subject of education.

The following comparative statement exhibits, with reasonable accuracy, the extent of that progress:

	1849	1859
Number of male Colleges,	0	0
do Female do	0	13
do Academies & select schools,	141	350
do Primary Schools,	632	4,090
Whole number of Schools and Colleges,	777	4,393
	1849	1859
Number of scholars at College	158	900
do at Female do	125	1,500
do at Academies & select schools	1,398	15,000
do at Primary schools	11,000	160,000
Whole number of scholars	18,681	177,400

Most of our Colleges and High Schools have been established by, and are now under the control of the several denominations of Christians, which is a fact not to be regretted since the natural friends of education are to be found among those who are engaged in the advancement of religion and morals.

Before closing with this subject, I would make brief mention of the two Military Institutions recently established at Charlotte and Hillsboro. Though not so classed, they maintain a standard of education, in the branches taught, fully as high as that which obtains in our best colleges. I respectfully commend these institutions to your favorable consideration, as worthy of the patronage of the State.

#### BOUNDARY LINE.

An Act of the Legislature, at its last session made provision for running and remarking the boundary line between North Carolina and Virginia. By virtue of the powers invested in me by the Act, I made several ineffectual efforts to procure a Commissioner to act on the part of this State with such Commissioner as might be appointed by the Governor of Virginia. It is believed, that compensation allowed by the law, is inadequate to procure the services of a competent person to discharge the duty assigned. The importance and delicacy of the office, cannot well be over estimated, and the best talent should be employed in its execution.

In the course of my correspondence with the Governor of Virginia, on the subject, I was advised that there was then a proposition before the Legislature of that State for running the line throughout its entire length. Whether the proposition was adopted or not, I have not been informed. This was the first intimation I had heard that the line was not already distinctly marked in other parts than those designated in our Act.

It is important that the location of the line should be clearly understood by the people of the two States, for which reason, I would respectfully suggest the adoption of such legislation as may be thought necessary to accomplish that object.

#### JUDGES.

Since the last adjournment of the Legislature, the Hon. Thomas Ruffin resigned his office of Judge of the Supreme Court, in consequence of his health's failing to such an extent as to conflict, in his opinion, with an efficient discharge of his duties. The retirement of this able and faithful officer, furnishes a suitable occasion for a public acknowledgment of the inestimable value of his services to the State.

The vacancy thus caused, was temporarily filled by the Governor and Council of State, by the appointment of the Hon. Mathias E. Manley, to that office; upon the acceptance of which, he resigned his office of Judge of the Superior Courts, and the Hon. George Howard was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Hon. David F. Caldwell and the Hon. Jesse G. Shepherd, also, resigned their offices as Judges of the Superior Courts. The Hon. James W. Osborne was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the former, and the Hon. Robert S. French, that of the latter.

It will devolve upon you, at your present session, to fill these vacancies by permanent appointments.

#### TAXATION AND REVENUE.

During the present year the question of taxation, and the principles upon which taxes should be imposed, have occupied to a very considerable extent the attention of the people. Propositions have been presented, in the public discussions of the day, favoring the mode of taxing property according to value; in some instances, with a limited power in the Legislature of discrimination, and in others, without the power of discriminating either "in favor of or against any particular class of persons or any particular species of property." All of these propositions involve, as an incident, such an alteration of the Constitution of the State, as to require of the Legislature to tax slaves according to value, instead of by enumeration, as at present.

The principle of taxing property according to value, may certainly be introduced with advantage, to a limited extent, in every revenue system, and could we imagine a condition of society where the circumstances of men and their mode of life were the same, and the property owned by them of a like nature and kind, it might be introduced generally with equity and justice. But it is apprehended that such a state of society will not be found anywhere to exist and certainly not in North Carolina.

The kind of property owned by our people, and the use to which applied, are widely variant in their character. So too, with their mode of life, their occupations and pursuits. Some own property of a useful and necessary kind, and which tends, in its use, to increase the public wealth and the general comforts of life; others, such as is not necessary, and which, in its employment, fosters the growth of luxury, ministers merely to the pleasures, and, too often, to the vicious propensities of our nature.

Nox, to act upon the general principle of taxing all property a uniform percentage upon the value, without regard to its character or kind, and the uses to which it may be applied, whether it be employed in creating and multiplying the means of human existence, or in the wasting of life and the enervation of the vital powers of man, by cherishing luxurious indulgences—whether in the encouragement of that honest industry that strengthens both body and mind, or the growth of vice and idleness, that weaken both—is, to my mind, to violate the plainest principles of political economy, to disregard the intelligent experience of mankind, and to sacrifice the best interests of society to the delusive teachings of a false philosophy.

It is claimed for this plan of taxation that it involves a principle of equality. It certainly does, and therein lies the argument against it. It would treat as equal those things which, in themselves, are not equal, and which the public welfare requires should not be treated with equal favor by the government. It would impose an equal tax on a given amount invested by the merchant in sugar and coffee, which are among the necessities of life, and the same amount invested by the retailer of ardent spirits, in the merchandise pertaining to his vocation; an equal tax upon books of useful instruction, and others of like value, that tend to the cultivation of a vitiated taste; in fine, it would obliterate the ordinary distinctions between virtue and vice, which a moral people should keep constantly in view, in every branch of legislation.

It is said, however, by some of the advocates of this plan, that property, when employed in a way to lead to vice and idleness, should be taxed at a higher rate than when otherwise used, and that this may be done by requiring persons thus employing it to pay a tax for the license, or the privilege of so using their property.

This, certainly, would be an ingenious mode of escaping from some of the evil consequences of a practical application of this principle, and carries with it the admission, that it is not a principle that will admit of a general, but only a limited and qualified employment.

A further examination of the subject will discover still other considerations that will require a departure from this principle.

According to our present revenue law, most of the banking capital bears a tax of 75 cents on the share of \$100, in addition to an amount paid upon the profits of banking, equal to the tax upon the profits of money loaned at interest. The business of banking, as is well known usually yields, with us, a clear profit of from

eight to twelve per cent. annually, while persons having money at interest are prohibited, by law, from receiving more than six per cent.

Now, here is an instance of a discrimination between property employed in different ways, which it is believed will generally be conceded to be just. It is a distinction founded in the fact that, though both modes of employment may be equally useful to the public, the one yields a larger profit than the other, and, consequently, is capable of bearing a heavier tax.

A discrimination should be made, it is submitted, between the different kinds of property, with reference to their relative advantages to the public at large. For instance, by our revenue law, a tax of one dollar on the hundred dollars value, is imposed upon pleasure carriages, gold and silver plate, jewelry and luxuries of the like kind; while a tax of but twenty cents is imposed on a hundred dollars worth of land. And this, because of the fact, that the one is a mere luxury, while the other is a necessary; the one diminishes the public wealth, the other increases it. Yet, the principle of a *colorum* taxation would make no distinction between them, but place an equal amount of taxes upon equal values of each. And, shall it be said, that land, upon which human habitations are built and bread is made for the sustenance of life, and from the productions of which commerce and manufactures, and indeed all the occupations of men, derive vitality and support, shall be placed upon a footing of equality, as regards taxation with pleasure carriages, gold and silver plate and the like articles of property that minister merely to our luxurious tastes, and withdraw from useful employments the amount of capital invested in them?

There are still other considerations that should be kept in view, in the shaping of a proper system of revenue, wholly inconsistent with the idea of making no discrimination between different kinds of property.

A very considerable number of our citizens make no surplus from the employment of their property, beyond the bare support of their families, and a law that would impose a tax upon every article of property without distinction, would have the effect to deprive them of some of the prime necessities of life. The interests of the people of this State require, in my opinion, that many articles of property should be entirely exempt from taxation.

Thus far, the principle upon which it is proposed to collect the revenue of the State, has been considered with reference to its application to the various objects of property and the different modes of their employment. It is proposed now to consider the rule as applicable to persons in their several occupations requiring the employment of the mental and physical powers alone.

The proposition, that in the collection of revenue, it is unjust and inexpedient "to discriminate in favor of or against any particular class of persons," it is submitted, will be found equally as fallacious, as that which forbids a discrimination between the different kinds of property.

The injustice and inexpediency of such a rule, cannot be more clearly illustrated, than by citing an instance of its application in our present revenue law. One of the provisions of that law imposes a tax of one per cent on the income from the various learned professions, the salaries of State and county officers, of the officers of corporations and individual employments, when the amount received by any one person exceeds \$500.

Here there is no discrimination made between the lawyer and the mechanic, the physician and the overseer, the State or county officer, whose labor is performed within doors, and the railroad engineer, who, in conducting the locomotive, is exposed to the inclemencies of the weather and the many dangers incident to his profession; they are all treated alike under this rule of equal taxation.

Such a rule, I maintain, is erroneous in its application to persons; that it is eminently just and proper, in the imposition of taxes to discriminate in favor of particular classes of persons engaged in certain pursuits. While I regard it as altogether proper, to impose a tax upon the income of persons engaged in many of the learned professions; upon salaried officers of the State and counties, and of some corporations, I consider it as inexpedient to impose any tax at all upon the mechanical and like employments, for the reasons that, the former are capable of bearing a tax, while the latter are not, in consequence of the fact, that such employments are, as yet, in their infancy with us, and usually yield but little more than a bare support for the persons engaged in them. They are rather the proper objects of the fostering care and protection of the government than fit subjects of taxation.

In the collection of revenue from the proceeds of individual occupations a special regard should be had—1st, to the lucrative character of the employment; 2d, the comparative ease and freedom from risk with which the labor pertaining to them is performed; 3d, their relative advantages to the public at large, and consequent claim upon the government for protection; and discriminations shall be made, for or against the particular classes of persons engaged in them, accordingly as these considerations may indicate.

It were difficult, indeed, to lay down any general rule of taxation suitable to every condition of society and adapted to the ever changing circumstances of a people. However this may be, it is confidently believed, that upon a full consideration of the subject, it will clearly appear that a general and unqualified system of *ad valorem* taxation is not adapted to the con-

dition of our people. In which event, there would be no necessity for an amendment of the Constitution to produce conformity to such a system.

It will be borne in mind, that there is, in the constitution, no limitation upon the power of the Legislature to increase or reduce the taxes upon slave property, whenever the one or the other may become necessary to produce a just relation between the amount of taxes collected from that and other kinds of property. The limitation consists in requiring a uniformity of the poll tax upon white persons and slaves, white males only between the ages of 21 and 45 years, and all slaves, between the ages of 12 and 50 years, being subject to such a tax.

Whether this provision be a just one or not, can in no way be more satisfactorily determined, than by a consideration of its practical operation. The slaves of the State, according to an estimate made from the late census, may be rated at 315,000 in number. While the white population numbers, some 800,000. The amount of taxes collected from the former, as appears from the comptroller's books, is \$127,062, and from the latter \$53,524, for the present year. These sums, when apportioned among our entire population of each, would allow 40 cents for every slave and 67 cents for each white person.

Now, when the advantages derived from the government, by the various classes of our citizens be considered, it is submitted, that the provision of our constitution referred to, is, in its practical operation, as above illustrated, substantially just towards all.

It is not, however as a financial, but as a social question, that this proposition of amendment assumes its chief importance.

The entire exports of the surplus products of North Carolina amount, in value, as far as a careful enquiry enables me to determine, to \$12,000,000, annually, of which \$11,000,000, at the least, may be stated as resulting directly and immediately from slave labor. This being taken as correct, it appears then that our whole social fabric is based upon and sustained by slave labor. There is scarcely an occupation of our people, whether mechanical, manufacturing, mercantile, or professional, that does not mainly depend upon it for a support. Without it not a railroad could be built, and of those already constructed there would not exist the means of preventing their going to decay. Upon this labor rests the public credit, and without it the State could not procure a dollar in the market, though for the most useful purpose, because she would be wholly unable to pay the interest on the public debt already contracted. In a word, the social and material prosperity of our people, and their means of living, greatly depend upon this species of labor. Its loss, with us, could never be fully supplied; for the most productive portion of our territory would not and could not be cultivated by the white race.

In view of these facts, it is clearly the part of a prudent legislation, to avoid, carefully, every measure that would tend to the expansion of this species of labor from the State. Already there exists a heavy drain upon it, in consequence of the greater profits resulting from its employment in the more Southern States.

That the repeal of the clause of the Constitution in question, and the consequences that would inevitably flow from that act, would add another and a powerful influence to those already existing to expel slaves from the State, does not, to my mind, admit of a doubt.

Furthermore, the Constitution as it exists, is consistent with itself. All free men have the right of voting for members of both branches of the Legislature, and all are required to pay a poll tax towards the support of the Government. Were this tax repealed, there would exist that anomaly in free government of the power of imposing taxes resting with one portion of our people, while the duty of paying them would remain to the other. Considered from this point of view, this feature of our Constitution which is sought to be abrogated, affords a highly useful protection to all kinds of property of whatever nature.

Before concluding this subject, I would respectfully suggest a revision of our revenue law, with a view to its amendment, in such particulars as the public interests may require. I would especially recommend an amendment of the clause imposing a tax upon incomes and salaries, upon the principles heretofore indicated.

It is believed that the condition of the public finances will admit of a reduction of the tax upon land, from twenty to fifteen cents on the hundred dollars value. Such a reduction I deem necessary to the establishing of a just relation between the land tax and that imposed upon other property of a like kind.

#### FEDERAL RELATIONS.

I would that I could, consistently, with a due regard to the public interests, conclude this communication, with a reference simply to our domestic affairs. It is impossible, however, to close the eyes to the perilous condition of the Confederacy, growing out of the agitation that has for many years been kept up against the institution of African slavery, as existing in the South.

The Republic has at last fallen upon those evils, against which the Father of the Country so solemnly warned us in his parting advice:—It is distinctly and widely divided by "parties founded upon geographical discriminations."

The great body of the people of the North and Southern States entertain diametrically opposite opinions upon the subject of African slavery; the former, that it is a social and political evil and a sin; the latter that it is a system of labor eminently well adapted



to enslave and soil, right and proper with itself, and that so far from being a sin, its establishment among us is one of the Providences of God for civilizing and Christianizing that benighted race.

Were these sentiments entertained as abstruse opinions merely, they would occasion but little disturbance to the government. It is for otherwise, however. This sentiment, with the people of the North, has assumed the form of a bold and aggressive fanaticism, that seeks the annihilation of slavery in the South at all hazards, and regardless of consequences. That such is its aim, the object and the end of its daily and hourly labors, can no longer be the subject of a doubt.

Impelled by this spirit, the Northern States have violated our rights to an extent that would scarcely have been borne by any other people on earth. They have deprived us of our property through lawless mobs, acting under the sanction of a high public opinion, and under the authority of their constitutions, with the connivance of their constituted authorities. Organized societies, with armed forces, have sent commissioners among us to induce slaves to insurrection and to bloodshed—circulating publications counselling slaves to rise against their masters, have been systematically circulated throughout the South by the dominant party of the North, sanctioned and endorsed by its most influential leaders. The Legislatures of a large majority of the non-slaveholding States have, by solemn enactments, openly and shamelessly annulled a provision of the Constitution of the United States for the rendition of fugitive slaves, and have legislated directly and pointedly, with the view to prevent the owner from recovering such property.

Courts of justice among them have, upon more than one occasion, totally disregarded a law of Congress enacted to secure our rights of property, and delivered over fugitive slaves to lawless mobs, with a knowledge of their purpose to prevent their reclamation by force. But little more than a year since an armed organization was deliberately planned and set on foot by political societies and men high in public confidence at the North, for the purpose of leading an insurrection of slaves against their masters. The invaders came, and in the night time fell upon a weak and unsuspecting community, and murdered peaceable and unarmed citizens.

When captured and executed for their treason and murder, they were lamented by the great body of the people of the North, as though they had fallen in the performance of some meritorious public service. It may be doubted whether history furnishes another instance among a civilized people, where treason and murder have been so sympathized with and applauded. Since which time, men most prominent in these demonstrations have been elevated to the highest offices of State, thus evidencing the deep and pervading sentiment of hostility in the North towards the institutions and the people of the South.

Such of the invaders as escaped, were harbored in the non-slaveholding States; and upon demand made, according to the terms of the Constitution, the Executive of two of those States, Ohio and Iowa, pointedly refused to perform their sworn constitutional obligations by surrendering them to the justice they had fled.

Enormities like these could not have been perpetrated towards the people of any foreign nation without involving the country in a war. Indeed it is now too manifest that the people of the Southern States have not in this Confederacy that protection for their property which the subjects of Great Britain, France, or any other foreign country can claim and enforce against us. Should the subjects of any foreign government be despoiled of their property by the people of Massachusetts, or any other non-slaveholding State, restitution and indemnity would be made by our government, upon demand, or reprisals and war against the United States would enforce indemnity. But should the people of Massachusetts forcibly deprive a citizen of North Carolina of his property, he would have no such remedy, and, indeed, no remedy at all, since the Constitution which provides for such cases, has been wholly annulled by the State of Massachusetts.

The forbearance with which the South has borne these indignities and wrongs, has utterly failed to secure a corresponding forbearance upon the part of our aggressors. The spirit of fanaticism by which they are influenced growing bolder by its lawless and unobstructed indulgence, has, at last, so far united the Northern masses as to enable them to seize upon the General Government, with all its power of purse and sword. Two persons have been elected, respectively, to the offices of President and Vice President, exclusively by the people of one section of the country, upon a principle hostile to the institutions and domestic policy of the other. Neither of them received an electoral vote in all the fifteen Southern States, and neither could have uttered, in many of them, the political sentiments upon which they are elevated to power, without subjecting himself to the penalties of the local criminal laws. A clearer case of a foreign domination as to us could not well be presented; and that it will be a hostile domination, past occurrences and the circumstances under which they have been elected, forbid us to doubt. That any people, having a due appreciation of the principles of liberty could long submit to such a domination, it is impossible to suppose.

They now tell us that this election has been conducted according to the forms of the Constitution, and that therefore the people of the South should take no exception to the fact—

They, who themselves have utterly refused to be bound by that Constitution, now hold it up to us as a bond to secure us from defending our property and lives against their oppressions.

It is true, Abraham Lincoln is elected President according to the forms of the Constitution; it is equally true, that George the Third was the rightful occupant of the British Throne, yet our fathers submitted not to his authority. They rebelled, not against the man because of any defect of his title to the crown, but against the more substantial fact—the tyranny of his Ministers and Parliament. That power "behind the throne," and which in the name of the throne attempted to deprive them of their liberties, is the one with which they grappled. So it is with us. It is not the man, Abraham Lincoln, that we regard, but the power that elevated him to office, and which will naturally maintain a controlling influence in his Administration. And can it reasonably be expected that men who have totally disregarded their constitutional obligations, and proved so dangerous in the administration of their State governments, will learn moderation by this new gratification of their lust of power and domination?

When it is considered that the sentiment of hostility to African slavery is deeply fixed in the minds of the Northern people—that for twenty-five years it has formed a part of their education—been inculcated in the family circle, and taught to them from the pulpit, as a leading principle of their religion, together with the duty of its practical enforcement "everywhere and on every occasion," it must be confessed that there exists but little ground upon which to rest a hope that our rights will be secured to us by the General Government administered at their hands.

This condition of public affairs, as was to have been expected, threatens the most deplorable consequences to the Confederacy. Already it is rendered more than probable that several of the natural rights of nations, will separate from the Federal Union before the termination of your present session. Such an occurrence would present a grave state of facts commanding our most serious and solemn deliberations.

It cannot for a moment be supposed, that we could submit to have the policy of the Abolition party, upon which their candidate for the Presidency has been elected, carried out in his Administration, as it would result in the destruction of our property and the placing the lives of our people in daily peril; and even though this should not be immediately attempted, yet, an effort to employ the military power of the General Government against one of the Southern States, would present an emergency demanding prompt and decided action on our part. It can but be manifest that a blow thus aimed at one of the Southern States would involve the whole country in a civil war, the destructive consequences of which to us, could only be controlled by our ability to resist those engaged in waging it.

The civilization of the age, surely, ought to be a sufficient guaranty for the prevention of so great a calamity as intestine war, even though amid political changes of the magnitude of those going on around us. But, should the incoming Administration be guilty of the folly and the wickedness of drawing the sword against any Southern State, whose people may choose to seek that protection out of the Federal Union which is denied to them in it, then we of North Carolina would owe it to our selves—to the liberties we have inherited from our fathers—to the peace of our homes and families, dearer to us than all governments, to resist it to the last extremity.

Ours is a government of public opinion, and not of force; and the employment of military force to control the popular will, would, if successful, result in a galling and inexorable despotism.

The prevention, then, of civil war and the preservation of amongst us are the great objects which North Carolina should resolve upon securing, whatever changes the Government may undergo.

In view of the perilous condition of the country, it is in my opinion becoming and proper that we should have consultation with those States identified with us in interest and in the wrongs we have suffered; and especially those lying immediately adjacent to us. As any action of ours would of necessity materially affect them, it would be but consistent with the amicable relations that have ever existed between us, to invite them to a consultation upon a question that so deeply affects us all.

From a calm and deliberate consideration of the best mode of avoiding a common danger, much good might result, and no evil could.

In this proceeding we would show to the world a disposition to exhaust every peaceable remedy for the solution of our difficulties, and a firm determination to maintain our rights, in the Union if possible, and out of it if necessary.

Such a step, too, would be but a becoming mark of respect to that considerable portion of the people of the non-slaveholding States, who have ever been disposed to acknowledge us as equals in the Union, and who have, on many occasions, gallantly struggled to secure our constitutional rights.

I therefore respectfully recommend that you invite the Southern States to a conference, or such of them as may be inclined to enter into consultation with us upon the present condition of the country. Should such a conference be found impracticable, then I would recommend the sending of one or more delegates to our neighboring states with the view of securing concert of action.

I also think that the public safety requires a recurrence to our own people for an expression of their opinion. The will of the people once expressed, will be a law of action with all, and secure that unanimity so necessary in an emergency like the present.

I therefore recommend that a Convention of the people of the State be called, to assemble immediately after the proposed consultation with other Southern States shall have terminated.

The subject of our military defenses will require your early attention. I would recommend a thorough reorganization of the militia and the enrolment of all persons between the ages of 18 and 45 years. With such a regulation our muster roll would contain near a hundred and ten thousand men.

I would also recommend the formation of a corps of ten thousand volunteers, with an organization separate from the main body of the militia, and that they be suitably armed and equipped.

That your proceedings may be conducted in a spirit of harmony and conciliation, and that they will redound to the honor and welfare of North Carolina and our common country, is my fervent desire.

JOHN W. ELLIS.  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
Raleigh, Nov. 20, 1850.

## THE TIMES.

GREENSBORO, N.C.

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### Governor's Message.

We yield much of our space to the Governor's Message. It is an interesting document, and should be read by all who take any interest in the affairs of our state. It is an ably written paper, and we wish its views on federal affairs were such we could fully endorse them. They appear to us, not in direct language, but by inference, to commit the state to secession. We favor the call of a Convention, if it be called to consider the state of affairs and not expressly for disunion.

### Thanksgiving.

Thursday will be observed in this place as a day of thanksgiving, in accordance with the proclamation of the Governor.—The congregations have been in the habit of alternating, and services will be held on Thursday, in the Presbyterian church.

### Close of the Volume.

To many of our readers the TIMES will go this week with a cross mark, which they will understand, is the plan we have adopted to inform them that in four weeks from the first cross mark their subscriptions expire. The present volume of the TIMES will close in four weeks, including this issue.

In the present excited state of the country, it is important that every one acts well and truly his part. We are, therefore, doing all we can to keep our readers well informed on passing events, to inspire them with a hope for the Union, and to ward off, if possible, the terrible scourge of disunion and civil war. Not tied to sect or party, our constant aim shall be to do our duty for the whole country; for the people, and not for parties and sects.

Let those of our friends, then, who would see union, not disunion; peace not war; fraternal love, not bloodshed and carnage; national prosperity, not penury and want; aid us in our effort and stand to the cause we advocate. We hope none of our friends have become tired of our weekly visits, but on the contrary, as we are doing what we can to encourage a proper home spirit and state pride, each and all will continue with us another year, and with each renewal for the new year, send us a new subscriber.

While the TIMES advocates the preservation of the Union, it also advocates the encouragement of home enterprise; the keeping of our money at home for home trade, and prosperity. This is the best preservation of our rights in the Union. We hope to hear soon from each subscriber whose paper receives a mark.

INVITED TO LEAVE.—A man calling himself Herriek stopped a few days in this place last week. His language and conduct aroused suspicion against him, and he was waited on by our citizens on Saturday night and advised to leave, which he did on the northern train. No suspicious characters will be allowed to lurk about now.—*Charlotte Democrat*.

Herriek left this place on Wednesday for, as he said, a position he expected to obtain on a Florida Railroad, as engineer. He passed for a Mason, and being out of

funds, received money enough to take him to Georgia. There was, therefore, no necessity for him to have stopped in Charlotte, and especially from Wednesday to Saturday night. Besides it appears from the *Democrat*, he left Charlotte on the Northern train, rather a strange course for Florida. There is but little doubt that he is a regular swindler, and perhaps worse. We warn the Masonic Fraternity against him.

### The Press.

The Press of North Carolina is strongly against disunion. We believe we have seen a disunion tendency in only the *Charlotte Bulletin*, the *Goldboro Rough Notes*, the *Wilmington Journal*, and the *Raleigh Democratic Press*. Some few papers have not fully shown their colors. But the great majority are for the Union. We give a few paragraphs from some of those that have spoken upon the subject. The extract from the *Petersburg Express* is given because that paper circulates chiefly in this state and is mostly filled with North Carolina news.

### The Express says:

Although differing from some of our southern contemporaries in their views about secession, whilst at the same time we are *inimici ete* a loyal son of the south, and devoted to the maintenance of her rights and her honor at all points, we nevertheless agree with the *Richmond Examiner* when it says: "If the south would escape long years of painful and needless strife, it should unite now to make a final decision on all sectional issues." Yes we say, the opportunity is now presented for "a full and final settlement, in spirit and in substance," of this whole quarrel between the two sections and the opportunity should be used for the accomplishment of that object. It would be criminal to let it pass without the most vigorous efforts to turn it to good account.

Opposed to the dissolution of the Union under existing circumstances, yet rather than that the discussions and distractions by which it is now harassed and disgraced should continue, we would submit to the sad necessity that would blot out this republic from the catalogue of nationalities. But we would use one more effort to preserve it, and if it failed, the south would stand justified before the world for taking redress in her own hands. We would have a convention of all the Slave States, for the purpose of deliberating upon the subject of their federal relations and agreeing upon some specific measures for terminating at once and forever this accursed slavery agitation; for as long as it is permitted to go on unchecked, it will only multiply troubles and inflame more and more the sectional mind.

The *Western Carolinian* has the following paragraph:

We shall still cling to the Union, and again urge immediate steps to organize Union leagues, and still strive to avert so great a national calamity as civil war.—This course we choose for various reasons some of which are that we are pro-slavery in sentiment, and in disunion we see the hand writing upon the wall against slavery. And for the reason that whenever this holy consecrated Government is broken up, law and order will cease to rule, and anarchy will triumph over the rights of slave property and every other kind of rights. Property will be confiscated by dominant parties. The rights of the poor and the press will be abridged as we have some right to know. The pen that traces this article in behalf of the Union will be forbidden to trace another such. The voices that have recently mingled in prayer for the Union will be hushed by military authority, and all our boasted liberties repressed.

### The North Carolina Standard says:

While we will not submit to the administration of the federal government on black Republican principles, we are in favor of trying Mr. Lincoln, an opponent to breaking up the government at this time and for existing causes. We predicted in the *Standard* of July last that the day was not distant when the battle would have to be fought in this State between Union and disunion—between those who would struggle for the preservation of the Union according to the Constitution, and those who unwilling to trust to two departments of the government against one, and unwilling to rely on a returning sense of justice in the Northern people and the millions of true friends whom the South yet has in that portion of the Union would madly rush into the vortex, black and bloody, of revolution, secession, military domination, and civil war. That time has arrived. We stand like a rock against both disunion and submission.—With both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court in our favor, we will try Mr. Lincoln, but we will not submit to the slightest indignity or the slightest encroachment on Southern rights. The encroachment on Southern rights, that the South, or on its vital interests, that day the Constitution is broken and the

Union perishes. Let us, then Watch and Wait.

### The Newbern Progress says:

Let the freemen of North Carolina say whether or not they are willing to be "dragged" out of the Union by the people of a State that has never treated them with common respect. This is no time to be still; patriots should act, and if the majority prefer the Union as it is to all the horrors which a general revolution would bring on, let them say so, and enter their protest against the efforts that are being made by South Carolina and Georgia to involve them in the common ruin. Can't think that North Carolina and Virginia will be obliged to follow South Carolina or any other State or States out of the Union. North Carolina is an independent sovereignty and is by no means tied to the destiny of South Carolina, and our people will not have the Union because told to do so by South Carolina.

### The Albemarle Southern says:

Whatever may be the pretent, last proceedings of other Southern States, we are glad to see that North Carolina evinces a disposition as shown by the leading journals, not to participate in any of their designs. North Carolina has always opposed fanaticism and sectionalism, come from what quarter it would. She has always been true to the Union and to herself and in this great secession fever, she has not in the least shown any signs of the infection. Let her not, we say, partake of any of the ultra-southern Southern States, but having assumed a noble position, let her gallantly sustain it.—Claiming to represent the voice of a large number of voters of the first Congressional District, we believe they will sustain us in saying, that they wish to go out of the Union only when our "rights as guaranteed to us under the Constitution have been assailed."

We have not space to quote further, but might fill columns with extracts of similar import from others of our state exchanges. So long as the Press of the state stands firm and true to the Union, our only true safety, we have no fears that North Carolina will run madly in the bloody vortex of revolution and civil war.

### The Financial Affairs.

The banks in nearly every section of the country have been compelled to suspend specie payment. This is in consequence of anticipated more than existing pressure; for, excepting the disunion movements the financial condition of the country is prosperous. In suspension, the banks can be more accommodating, where there is not an actual scarcity of money, and since a sudden stoppage of discount would be ruinous to trade, it is a wise policy in the banks to suspend, rather than to close down suddenly upon discount. And since the suspension of the banks is a matter of public accommodation, more than for individual safety, the legislature has done well to remove the penalties heretofore attached to suspension. But at the best the financial elements are stormy, and the prospects look exceedingly gloomy. But we hope there may not be all evil in the cloud; that the storm may at least partly be a phase, and we will feel the better after it is past. The *Richmond Dispatch*, speaking of the national troubles in this light, says:

The storm rages and the waves run high. The financial embarrassments growing out of our political irritations and struggles are reaching every hole and corner of the Confederacy. It is thus seen that one portion of the nation cannot repudiate its constitutional obligation, and make a bold and reckless crusade against the rights, the peace and safety of the other, with impunity. It is well that the storm shall be equal to the aggravations that occasion it. The higher it rises and the severer its disasters, the stronger will be the hope of a settlement of our difficulties on some permanent basis. The nation, we may trust, will be all the better for passing through the ordeal of a great calamity.

### Mr. Lincoln's Position.

At a recent demonstration at Springfield, Ill., Mr. Lincoln's home, Senator Fremont made a speech which was promised in advance of its delivery, to be an exposition of Mr. Lincoln's views. The following is an extract:

Upon national topics Senator Fremont disapproved the idea of triumphing over political opponents, accepting all, by whatever name called, as brethren of a common country. He said Mr. Lincoln, although the candidate of the Republican party, as Chief Magistrate will neither belong to that or any other party when inaugurated. He will be the President of the country, and of the whole country; and I doubt not will be as ready to defend and protect the State in which he has not received a solitary vote against any encroachment upon its constitutional rights, as the one in which he has received the largest majority.







# WRITTEN FOR THE TIMES. An Autumnal Scene. BY ANNA M. BATES.

I looked in the sunset light,  
To the shining river's flow,  
And the voice of the wind was low;  
As it stole o'er the nodding grass,  
And the field of ripened rye,  
And the stern dark pines that stood  
Like sentries beneath the sky.

I stood by the rose's bed,  
Where the lonesome rain had wept,  
And thought how she bowed her beautiful head  
So soon in the dust and slept;  
And I thought of the innocent maid,  
Who had plucked them off at dawn:  
I had lived to see how both could fade—  
The rose and the maiden gone!

I turned to the whispering trees  
That in rustle beauty stood,  
Kissed by the sunlight and the breeze,  
Close by the rushing flood;  
But clad in their gorgeous robes  
They flaunted their colors gay,  
And said, "we cannot pity thee—  
For thy beauty's fled away."

I looked in a low green fern  
That drooped like a lady's hair,  
And hidden under a sheltering spray  
I found a bird's nest there;  
A dainty woven thing  
That the small birds wrought upon,  
Till these their younglings spread the wings—  
Like the rose and the maid were gone.

I turned in the sunset light  
And said I will gaze no more,  
For with the ephemeral Summer's flight  
The charm of the earth is o'er;  
I will look to the other home  
That smiles o'er Time's ocean waves,  
Where the roses do not fade in bloom  
And are planted on no graves.

And the friends of my youth are there,  
They smile in their fadeless bloom,  
With Christ and the angels fair  
They dwell in the Father's home;  
Where no shadow and no night  
O'er their pathway comes to lie,  
But all is glorious light  
In the world beyond the sky!

## WRITTEN FOR THE TIMES. The Maiden's Mystery. BY MISS LOUISA M. BOURKNIGHT.

### CHAPTER I.

Around her life a mystery hung:  
None dreamed of it while gazing on her face  
So calm and passionless. None saw her weep  
And sob and moan when in her solitude.

She had a grief to hide.

It was mid-summer. In the deepest shade of a fir tree sat a young girl, her hands clasped and her eyes dropping tears like rain. Flung seemingly in the deepest affliction, convulsive sobs shook her delicate frame, and she trembled like the quivering leaf of the aspen tree.

And why? Why this bitter, overwhelming grief? Why should she wander away, alone, from her pleasant cottage home to the silent solitude of the grove, that she might give way in secret to the pent up emotions of her troubled soul? Aye, "thereby hangs a tale" and a mystery.

Olive D'Orsay was the only daughter of a physician, who practised in a thriving town in one of our middle states. He was a widower, having lost a wife whom he idolized, when his daughter was in her twelfth year. Five years had passed since he saw her laid in the dark chambers of the earth—and no thought of marrying again had ever entered his soul. Her memory to him was too sacred, to permit another to occupy her place.

Olive, now, was his greatest comfort and happiness. Around her all the warmest affections of his heart were twined—she was his dearest earthly possession. Yet, he knew not of the secret sorrow which consumed her life, for, in his presence she was all cheerfulness and content. No trace of the bitter tears shed in the dark watches of the night, as in the solitude of her daily resort, the pine tree grove were ever observable upon her placid features, whose pale loveliness was so dear to the heart of her fond parent.

Olive was gifted by nature with the power of song. In other words, she was a poetess—consequently, high minded and sensitive to a superlative degree. Quiet and reserved in her usual manner, she owned a soul burning with noble and heaven-aspiring thoughts—a soul which always looked forth from her dark, thickly fringed eyes, like a bright star gleaming from the opening of a shadowy cloud at even. Many a heart had thrilled delightedly beneath the brilliant rays of those magnetic eyes; but Olive was cold, and proudly distant to every suitor for her love.

As I said, it was mid-summer—and Olive sat in the pine tree grove weeping like the sorrowing Sibyl. Her grief, however, was not audible; no sound from her lips broke the stillness of her retreat; but, although her tears fell in silence and her sobs gave no voice, she was, for the first time observed by human eyes. Unseen and unheard by Olive, a form leaned through the trees behind her and witnessed the tears that no mortal before had ever seen her shed.

At length the maiden dried her eyes, whose brightness was unflinched, nor was there any trace of grief upon her pale, placid face, as she unclasped her hands and looked up to the blue sky glimmering through the whispering firs, and listened to a thrush that warbled among their dark, drooping branches. It was strange that she did not feel the magnetism of the brilliant eyes which gazed upon her lovely face as it was turned in their direction; it was strange that some mysterious power did not make her aware of the presence of a spirit akin to her own which trembled and thrilled so near, so very near her.

The young girl sat silent a while, and then, suddenly, her voice rang out upon the air with a melting and thrilling sweetness, now swelling into powerful notes and then sinking plaintively into tones that echo failed to hear. These were the rambling words that issued from her lips:

"Why do I weep?  
Ah, me! no mortal knoweth my grief,  
For 'tis hidden in the depths of my soul,  
And there in secret shall it lie.

My father kind,  
Who loves his only child, oft smiles and sighs  
And whispers sadly, 'she will weep  
Some day and leave me!'

Oh, did he know?  
This cold still heart must never beat  
With love's warm thrills! Oh, no!  
It cannot, must not love!"

A deep drawn inspiration behind the maiden caused her to stop singing and turn quickly around. A slender, yet manly form leaned against a tree in an attitude of eager attention, his face expressive of intense admiration and delight. Olive's dark eyes rested upon him a moment and then, without uttering a word, she rose from her mossy seat and fled through the grove like a startled fawn.

The listener, as if spell bound, never stirred from his position to follow her, but his ardent eyes pursued her lithe figure until she was lost to sight among the trees. Then, with another, and a deeper sigh, he slowly left the spot.

In the soft, sweet twilight of that Summer eve, Joshua D'Orsay sat on his wide piazza, indulging in his favorite hobby. The western clouds were crimson with the last lingering light of departed Sol, and the song of the day-birds was silent; but the plaintive whip-poor-will sighed out his mournful burden in the adjacent grove, and the combined sound of innumerable insects filled the calm evening air.

Watching the light cloud of fragrant smoke that ascended from his lips, Joshua D'Orsay did not hear the rustle of Olive's white dress as she glided like a spirit to his side. In a moment, her soft arms had encircled his neck like a snow wreath, and her lips were pressed upon his forehead silently and fervently.

"Is that my darling Olive?" he asked gaily. "If I were not so sure of your affection, I should be apt to think that you were trying to garrote me."

"Now, papa! I'd like to punish you for that observation; but, mercy! how that smoke does stifle me! I'll keep aloof in future just about this hour."

"Well, there! I've done with it!" he cried, throwing the cigar into a lilac bush. "Come and sit on my knee, darling."

"No, papa; not to-night."

The deepening shade of twilight prevented him from observing the mournful expression that crossed her countenance as she spoke. He looked surprised.

"And why not? I suppose you think it is childish, now that you're growing a young woman, to sit on papa's knee—or, perhaps you have some other reason."

Olive was spared the pain of replying, much to her relief, for at that moment a servant handed her a letter to his master, who immediately retired to his library to read it.

### CHAPTER II.

I deemed this heart was still and cold,  
Oh, calm and cold and still;  
And that if ever was made to feel  
Love's sweet, ecstatic thrill.

But, oh! when those dear eyes of thine  
Looked deep into my soul,  
Swift o'er my cheek the crimson tide  
From my full heart did roll.

Gerald Stockton had long known Olive D'Orsay by sight, as he was an inhabitant of the same vicinity, but as she was so severe in her retirement, he had never chanced upon an introduction. However, he had long since placed her first in his visions of beauty and love, enthroned her in his secret heart as the queen of female loveliness and modesty. Many times unknown to her, had he followed her light foot steps through the mazes of the fir tree grove, that retreat she so loved and deemed so inviolate; many times had he watched her as she perused some well worn volume of poetry from her father's library, as listened breathlessly from his leafy covert, to the rich tones of her voice when she pensively sang some sweet old ballad, or improvised a ditty of her own—but never, except that one time, had he chanced to see her weep tears that told of a sorrow, deep and strong—and heard her breathe forth, like one with a breaking heart, the melancholy words,

"I cannot, must not love!"

"And why?" he mentally asked himself, as the last rustle of her flying footsteps smote upon his ear. "Why can she not love?" so beautiful! so young! Oh, would I had the power to change that sorrowful refrain, "I cannot, must not love!" and let it be instead, "I love, I love but thee!"

Gerald went home to his widowed mother, sad at heart, and when Mrs. Stockton wondered at his absence of mind and dejected mien, he was obliged to feign indisposition to hide from her motherly eyes the real trouble of his soul.

"Olive, my dear child," said her father, a few days after the events related. "I feel I am growing old—and it would be my greatest happiness to see you settled in the world ere I take my departure to. I hope and trust, a happier sphere."

"Do not start, my love, nor look so grieved at what I say. Why, my dear child, your eyes are full of tears. Do you imagine, dear one, that I want to drive you from me, or from this pleasant home? Far from it! Listen to me, love!"

And passing his arm around her, while she

turned her face from his sight, her fond father continued:

"Years ago, my Olive, I promised my dearest friend, who is now in his grave, that our children should be united. The only son of that friend is now of age and a man to whom I should not fear to trust the happiness of my child. What say you, darling, to Gerald Stockton? I am sure you know him somewhat."

Olive's pale face grew still more pale and her lips trembled, as she slowly gasped forth the words,

"Yes—I have seen him—but—I—"

"You don't like him? Is that it? Well, my child, there shall be no compulsion, although this marriage, has long been the dearest wish of my heart; and I had looked forward to a happy family dwelling beneath my own roof. But, tell me, Olive, is there any one else that you prefer? Have you, young as you are, given your heart away?"

"No, father, no! you distress me! Cease, I entreat you!"

And while tears commenced streaming down her face, Olive hastened from his presence, leaving him both surprised and grieved, and more than that, deeply puzzled to account for the strangeness of her behaviour.

It was long that night ere sleep rested upon the eyes of Olive, and when it did, troubled dreams disturbed her gentle spirit. Towards morning she suddenly awoke, and looking towards the casement, beheld, to her astonishment and affright, a pale, shadowy figure standing in a ray of moonlight and gazing wistfully upon the trembling maiden.

Well knew Olive that face and those dreamy blue eyes—it was the spirit of her long buried mother. Her fear was only momentary, and rising in the bed, she stretched forth her hands towards the apparition, exclaiming:

"Speak! dear spirit! what wouldst thou with thy child?"

Keeping her spiritual gaze upon the young girl, the shade opened her bloodless lips and uttered in a thrilling whisper:

"Thy promise, girl! darrest thou break it? beware!"

Olive's white face fell upon her hands a moment, then raising it, she exclaimed:

"I have kept it faithfully!"

But the vision had vanished—the moon's pale rays fell upon space—and I sinking back upon her soft pillow, Olive, overcome by emotion, gave way to an avalanche of tears.

Two evenings—and again sat Olive in her favorite retreat, not reading, not singing, not even weeping. She was silent, and seemingly deeply buried in mournful thought; so deeply, indeed, that she saw not coiled in the grass but two feet from her mossy seat, a large snake, whose green eyes glistened, and whose forked tongue continually darted from his open jaws, as with raised head, he seemed intent upon his victim. The sun had not yet descended, and a single ray stealing through the trees rested upon her drooping eyelids and caused her to turn her face. Then, for the first time she saw her danger. A scream, loud and piercing broke from her lips, but she felt herself incapable of moving. Sick and faint, she closed her eyes for a moment. A rustle among the leaves and the sound of a blow caused her to look up and she beheld Gerald Stockton standing over the dying reptile, whose head was crushed by a stone from the youth's hand.

"Thank heaven! I have saved you, maiden," he murmured, as she gazed upon him with surprise and strong agitation.

"Accept my gratitude!" she said faintly, and rose as if to hurry away.

"Permit me to accompany you," said Gerald, eagerly; "you seem unnerved—let me beg you will take my arm."

Olive shook her head, but tottered as she attempted to walk. The young man did not regard her refusal, but taking her hand drew it within his arm and led her onward in the direction of her home.

"Oh, Fate!" gasped Olive, unheard by her companion, the throbbing of whose heart she could feel as her hand rested against his side.

"Oh, Fate! Oh, Mother!"

And thus began the acquaintance of two beings who had long loved each other in silence and in secret.

### CHAPTER III.

Oh, be thou true to me, darling!  
And I'll be true to thee;  
But if thou wiltest him, darling,  
Then make a grave for me!

Three months had passed. Doctor D'Orsay had remarked with secret satisfaction—I may say, pleasure—the growing intimacy of his child and young Stockton. The latter, encouraged more by the parent than the daughter, became almost an inmate of their dwelling, so frequent were his visits. But, while Olive received him with outward calmness and friendliness the poor girl was growing daily more wretched at heart and wept oftener than before.

Gerald had long desired to learn, if possible, the cause of Olive's mysterious sorrow; but, although he often surprised her in tears, a certain something in her manner deterred him from venturing an inquiry into a grief which she had always endeavored to keep sacred from observation.

But at last, perceiving Olive's growing despondency, the youth could keep silence no longer, and while he told his deep regard for her, and besought her to become his bride, he also entreated her to tell him the cause of her long-hidden and bitter sorrow.

Olive was not taken by surprise, for she knew with a woman's intuition, that this declaration had trembled on his lips for days, and though the unhappy girl had endeavored to avoid it,

she found it impossible not to listen to one who was secretly very dear to her. For a long time Olive made no reply except with tears, which she endeavored in vain to suppress, and at last gasped out, while she yielded him the hand he sought to press in his own:

"Oh, Gerald, Gerald! would that we had never met! I love you dearly, but may never, never marry you."

"But why?" he eagerly asked, passing his arm around her. "Why, Olive, if you love me? What terrible reason can you have for refusing me?"

"Terrible, indeed!" she echoed, despairingly. "Gerald, leave me! I cannot tell you; no mortal has ever known my secret."

"Olive, I don't understand your treatment of me," the young man sternly rejoined. "You confess that I am dear to you, and yet you give me no reasonable excuse for rejecting me. Come, I must know your secret."

Thus urged, the young girl, with pale lips and paler cheeks, commenced after a short silence, in a trembling voice, to relate a portion of her earlier life.

"Five years ago," said Olive, "my mother died. I was a child then, only twelve years old, and one of the gayest and most careless of my age. Nothing troubled me until my dear mother lay on her dying bed; and even then I did not realize what her loss would be to me."

"One night she called me to her side. 'My child,' were her words faint and low, for she was sinking fast, 'before I die, I have a revelation to make which bears upon your future life. Listen! and heed what I say unto you.'"

"You have seen our neighbor, Sylvanus Godline, Old Syl, the Hermit, as he is called by the villagers—"

"What?" cried I, interrupting my mother, "that disgustingly ugly man, who has such a brutal, depraved countenance?"

"Hush, my child! he is not so bad as he appears. He seldom allows himself to be seen by strangers—but if you were accustomed to him, as you will have to be—"

"Accustomed to him?" I again interrupted, "good heavens! mamma, what have I to do with him?"

"Patience, child! You will have to marry him!"

"Young as I was, Gerald, her words filled me with horror and affright. You may well start at what I say, but you have not seen this man."

"I have, I have, Olive! Good God, was your mother insane?"

"No, no, Gerald! but be calm till I have finished."

"Calm! and hear of such a horrible sacrifice? My very blood boils in my veins."

"Let me finish, Gerald, for my story is a painful one. I wept, and entreated my mother to spare me such a fate—but for some mysterious reason, she was inexorable."

"Beware," she said, "how you yield your heart to any man's keeping! You must wed this hermit, or he has sworn to be revenged upon yourself and all that are most dear to you. The cause which brought this fate upon you, my child, is a secret which must die with me. I have not many moments to live, Olive; I must have your promise to comply with my request ere I die. On your eighteenth birthday Sylvanus Godline will claim his bride—if you refuse, the consequences will be fatal!"

"I promised, Gerald; but had I then known the sweet delight of loving—of loving *thee*—I would have preferred death to such a fate as now awaits me. Do you wonder at my tears, at my secret grief, now that you know my history?"

Her lover's countenance was greatly agitated.

"No, Olive, no!" he cried, "but this must be averted. Look, Olive," he continued, holding his hand up to heaven, "I swear this sacrifice shall not be made!"

"It is my fate! you cannot prevent it! Listen once more. Sometime since, the spirit of my mother appeared unto me and solemnly bade me remember my fatal promise; I dare not disobey."

"But this man—this hermit, as he is called, who keeps himself so strictly secluded in yonder old dwelling on the side of the mountain, what can be his history? His countenance bespeaks a life of villainy, for I noted him well the only time I ever chanced to see him, when he scowled upon me and gnashed his teeth like some wild beast. Good God! his bride! Sooner would I stab thee to the heart with my own hand!"

"Oh, Gerald! would you kill me?"

"Could I not save thee otherwise, dear one! We would die together."

Both were silent for a short space, and they sat with their hands clasped, gazing sadly into each other's face. At length Olive spoke, with a shudder:

"I saw him once since my mother's death—about a year ago. He came upon me unawares, while I sat in the fir-tree grove. He stayed but a moment—and I said but one sentence: 'On your eighteenth birthday I come for you!' The fatal day is near at hand—next week will bring it to me. Oh, Gerald! Gerald! ere that hour we must part forever!"

"I shall not be! He shall die first!" cried the excited youth, starting to his feet. "I swear he shall die ere he pollutes you with his foul touch!"

"Gerald, beware! Great Heaven! would you become a murderer! You know not what you are saying. Calm yourself, and let us return to the house. See, the shades of evening are darkening around us. Come!"

They had been sitting on a rustic bench beneath the shelter of a lonely elm tree, a short distance from Olive's home; and now, as the

maiden arose and drew her shawl around her, she turned from her companion, and with clasped hands raised her eyes in a mute appeal to her heavenly Parent. Her silent prayer went not up unheeded.

(To be continued.)

## WRITTEN FOR THE TIMES. Imogene. BY JAMES S. WATKINS.

Ah! it was the first dawn  
Of a bright Summer's morn,  
While nature was robed in her green,  
In love's fondle we met,  
And I'll never forget  
That meeting with fair Imogene.

Circled my cry  
Of her bright, sunny sky,  
And praise her fair, beautiful girl;  
But as yet I've not seen  
Naught of beauty, I ween,  
To compare with fair Imogene.

Round her neck does she keep  
From the caves of the deep,  
Where mought save the Naiads are seen:  
A necklace of coral,  
Whose mountain-like throat  
Was broken for sweet Imogene.

'Tis said "high above  
All the angels are love,"  
By Holy Writ—'tis undoubted true;  
While at Paradise's gates  
A bright Peri awaits  
To receive my good Imogene through.

I am praying for her  
Whom, in truth, I adore  
Next to Heaven—'tis the Father of love,  
That when death shall come,  
She may go safely home  
And join that Peri angel above.

## WRITTEN FOR THE TIMES. OLD SIM. BY ISA CLAYTON.

I was returning to the home of my childhood after an absence of four years. When on reaching the railroad station, some three miles from my old familiar home, I procured a carriage and with the driver immediately set out for my place of destination. After riding about a mile in thoughtful silence I was startled by the report of a gun. I looked in the direction it was fired in time to see the victim of the discharge drop lifeless to the ground. It was a horse, and the driver informed me that he had been a very useful animal, but as he had got to be old and blind the owner had deemed it expedient to put an end to his existence. "Poor old Sim," continued the man, "has done all the work he ever will that's a sure case!"

"Old Sim," I repeated, "it cannot be my Sim that I have so often driven, can it?" I hardly designed this question for my driver's ear; but, overhearing my half loud colloquy, he informed me that the horse was formerly owned by Mr. Sherwood.

"He is my father," I exclaimed, "then it is my dear old Sim, who carried me so many miles, kind noble creature," and the tears came to my eyes as memory went back to the many adventures old Sim and I had encountered together; had he not galloped through the streets with me on his back many a time, and, if through carelessness, I lost my hold and fell to the ground, had he not gently stopped and looked around affectionately towards me, as if enquiring whether I was injured by my fall? And then did he not patiently wait until I brushed the dust from my riding habit and reined him up to assist me and resumed my seat, when he would start off as proudly as ever? Ah yes, more than once. Had he not eaten oats or corn from my hand and with his musical whinny thanked me for the same? Had he not often run to meet me as I entered his pasture, and then while I was fastening on his halter, held his head down so that I could reach his great, long, high neck, and when I would put his face and adjust his mane had he not closed his eyes as tranquilly and looked as happy as if he thought I was his protector and friend? He had, poor, poor old Sim! And then came another circumstance to my mind, connected with my deceased horse. I was once a number of miles from home with him, when he was taken with a violent fit of coughing; this was so unusual with him it alarmed me. We were in the country and as there were few people to discover my proceedings, I dismounted, took off the saddle and bridle and led him to the roadside and cordially invited him to partake of the high green grass, as a kind of cough lozenge; he commenced to eat but instead of relieving, it only aggravated his cough; after trying this ineffectual remedy I led him to a little brook near by in hopes this would prove efficacious; but was disappointed again, for he continued to cough until I began to view the matter of reaching home that day in rather a questionable light, but I replaced the saddle and the cruel bit and I set out homeward. Sim galloped off at a fearful rate and with his loud coughing and rapid pace we created no little alarm as we, Gipsy like, rushed through the streets. But by the time I had cogitated all this over in my mind my driver and I had reached my dear old home of long ago—where all were enzy with delight at my return. I had scarcely returned the greetings of my friends when I related in pathetic tones the fate of poor Sim. My youngest brother a little dare-devil of twelve years with many grimaces roughly repeated the following lines,

'He's old and he's cold,  
His box, dull and slow,  
Neither is fit to go;  
Within the team to get;  
Then take him, what him, stave him;  
To the hands let him go,  
Poor old horse let him die,  
He's out of my way.  
He wags all my stave,  
Neither is he fit to go;  
Within the team to get;  
Then take him, what him, stave him,  
To the hands let him go,  
Poor old horse let him die."











